



WAVIES & CURLIES

Newsletter of the Portuguese Water Dog Club of Northern California

AUGUST 2023

President's Message

Welcome to the latest issue of *Wavies & Curlies*. Summer is upon us and so are high temperatures and water practice, an excellent way to beat the heat! The Water committee and club volunteers do a terrific job of helping each other and newbies train so sign up and join the fun. Your dogs will thank you.

Since our last Newsletter, the club has been busy with a picnic, a supported entry in Vallejo, another supported entry with obedience and rally in Carmel, and a FCAT trial. The club holds many events throughout the year, and we need the support of the membership by volunteering at events to continue to offer the variety we do. Please reach out to any of the Board members or committee chairs and come on out we would love to see you and have you join in the fun.

We have many more events planned for the year including a 3-day Agility trial in Prunedale on August 11-13, where we are offering 2 free Novice runs to club members. We also have the PWDCA Nationals at the end of August in Albany, Oregon, and our Water Trial is slated for October 6-8 at Lake Camanche. Please check out the calendar and sign up to volunteer, come out and watch, or enter and join the fun.

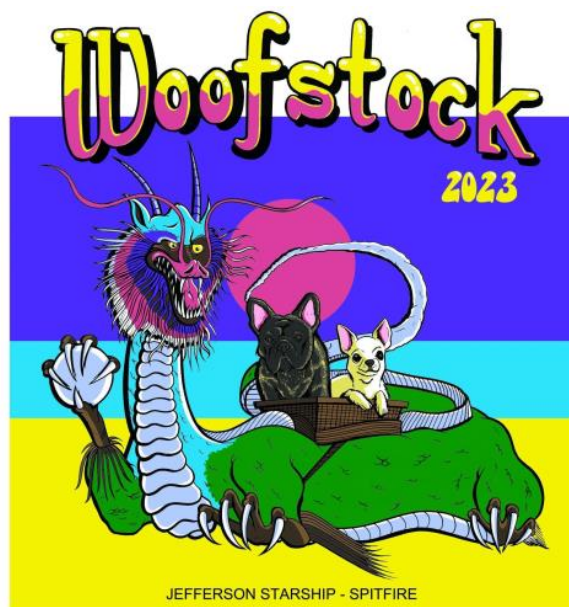
We, the Board, look forward to seeing you!

Obrigada,

Becky Morin



PWDCNC President Rebecca Morin with Viriatos



Report on Woofstock 2023 inside!

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CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

WE HAVE A CRITICAL NEED FOR VOLUNTEERS TO CHAIR THE REGIONAL SPECIALTY, AS WELL AS TO ORGANIZE FCAT EVENTS. WE ARE IN DANGER OF LOSING THESE IMPORTANT ACTIVITIES IN 2024 IF THESE POSITIONS ARE NOT FILLED.

In addition to helping out with the events currently being planned, there are plenty of other opportunities. Why not think about running for the Board, or working with the various Committees or Performance Chairs? (See [page 22](#) for contacts.) Or think of new events and activities; the Club will help you refine your idea and bring it to life. You might also consider providing a foster home for a PWD as part of the Club's Rescue and Relocation effort.

If you're interested in volunteering for any of the above positions or activities, or would like to learn more, contact the appropriate Committee or Activity/Performance Chair, or any Board Member (see [page 22](#) for contacts).

Mark Your Calendar for Upcoming Events!

Check for updates on the Club's [web calendar](#). And please consider volunteering to help with your favorite activities — see the contacts listed below for the various events.

Friday–Sunday, August 11–13

Manzanita Park, Prunedale

PWDCNC-Hosted Agility Trials

All-breed AKC Agility Trials

Contact Ann Gaskell at ann.gaskell@gmail.com, or

Becky Morin at detoraq@hotmail.com

For info and entry: www.AbbaDogs.com

Friday, August 25 – Friday, September 1

Albany, OR

2023 PWDCNC National Specialty

Linn County Expo Center, Albany

Further information: www.pwdcans.org

Friday–Sunday, October 6–8

Lake Camanche North Shore, Lone

PWDCNC Water Trials

Venue website: www.golakecamanche.com

Contact Kathy Souza at pwdlover@pacbell.net

Thursday–Sunday, October 19–22

Sonoma County Event Center and Fairgrounds, Santa Rosa

Harvest Moon Classic

Del Valle Dog Club & Skyline Dog Fanciers

PWDCNC Supported Entry Saturday, October 21,
for Conformation, Obedience, and Rally

Contact Becky Morin at detoraq@hotmail.com

Tentative

Saturday, November 4

Location TBD

PWDCNC-hosted AKC Scent Work Trial

PWDs have priority for entries received
no later than October 11

Contact Kathy Souza at pwdlover@pacbell.net

Friday, November 10

Napa Valley Expo, Napa

PWDCNC 2023 Regional Specialty

Conformation, Sweeps, Obedience/Rally trials,
and many other events

Contact Ann Gaskell at ann.gaskell@gmail.com, or

Becky Morin at detoraq@hotmail.com

Friday–Sunday, November 24–26

Rancho Murieta

PWDCNC-Hosted Agility Trials

All-breed AKC Agility Trials — come to participate
or watch. Support this big Club fundraiser!

Contact Ann Gaskell at ann.gaskell@gmail.com, or

Becky Morin at detoraq@hotmail.com

For info and entry: www.AbbaDogs.com

Sunday, December 17

Dream Big Training Center, Lodi

PWDCNC-hosted AKC Scent Work Trial

Entries open at noon, Wednesday, September 27

Contact Ann Gaskell at ann.gaskell@gmail.com

Sunday, January 28, 2024

Zoom Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

PWDCNC General Membership Meeting

Details will be sent to the entire membership

Contact Ann Gaskell at ann.gaskell@gmail.com

Sunday, February 25

11:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., Location TBD

PWDCNC Annual Meeting

Details will be sent to the entire membership

Contact Ann Gaskell at ann.gaskell@gmail.com

Additional Tentative Events

Fit Dog

Trick Dog Workshop

Rally Workshop with Billy and Dee Dee Anderson

AKC Scent Work Workshop

Fun Walks

To be Rescheduled

Place, time TBD

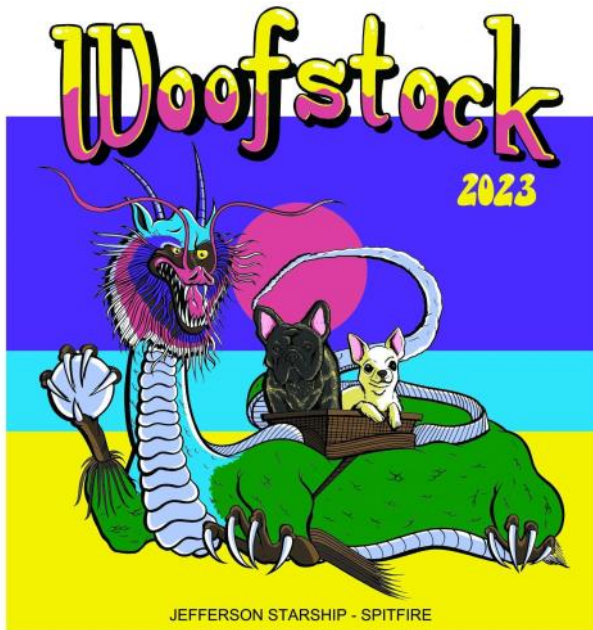
Marge Rogers Workshops

Two workshops for all experience levels of PWD owners

Instructor: Marge Rogers, CBCC-KA, CPDT-KA

Contact Sherry Hanen at sherrypwd@gmail.com

2023 Woofstock PWDCNC-Supported Entry



By Kathy Souza

In June Woofstock returned to the Solano County Fairgrounds in Vallejo once again. Featuring four days of “Peace, Love & Dogs,” exhibitors and spectators were invited to dress appropriately for the theme. Judges, exhibitors, and spectators rose to the occasion with a dazzling array of retro 1960s attire. The weather was delightful, a little overcast with unseasonably cool temperatures.

The PWDCNC-supported entry at Woofstock is always on Saturday, the most spectacular day of this four-day extravaganza. This year there was a 4-point major available in both dogs and bitches. There were 25 entries: 6 dogs and 8 bitches in class judging, and 6 special dogs and 2 special bitches in Best-of-Breed. Our excellent judges were Mrs. Mary H. Wells for Sweepstakes, and Mr. Robert L. Vandiver for the regular judging.

Results of the Judging

Best Puppy in Sweepstakes: Baywood N True North
Burning Down the House (bitch) Owner: Jenna Bullis
& Brenda Brown & Katherine Butkovic

Best of Opposite Sex Puppy Sweepstakes: Toraq’s
Tribute To The Midnight Sun (dog) Owner: Rebecca L
Morin

Best Veteran in Sweepstakes: GCHS Surfari’s Frankly
My Dear AOM AOE CGC (bitch) Owner: Lynda
McCallum & Charles McCallum

Winners Dog: Remiss’ Stillness Becomes a Radiance
Owner: Cheryl Blancett & Remy Smith-Lewis

Winners Bitch, Best of Winners: Topnotch Goddess
of The Moon Owner: Lisa Gallow & Karen D’Augusta
& Catherine Lydon

Best of Breed: GCH Maratime Maddux of Saltwater
(dog) Owner: Mara Hertzberg

Best Opposite: GCHB CH Covey Run’s Summer
Breeze FCAT CGCA (bitch) Owner: Diana Bailey &
Marsha Litke

Select Dog: GCH Odysea It’s Always Sonny At Surfari
Owner: Lynda McCallum & Charles McCallum

Select Bitch: GCH Allegiance How To Get Away With
Murder For Lawless Owner: Candice Duclos & Jason
Duclos



Woofstock's 60's ambience



Judges' table with tie-dye prizes



Sweeps Judge Mary Wells with Becky Morin and Moondancer



Shari Benson with Whiskey, Chris and Elain Rasmussen with Briza



Woofstock photos courtesy of Frank Dietrich



Judge Robert Vandiver reviews the Winners Bitch line-up

Woofstock!



Lisa Gallow and Winners Bitch Jaci (later also Best of Winners)



Handler Amy Rutherford and Sonny



Tee-shirt, anyone?



Best of Breed final line-up



Trophy mug

Woofstock!



Frank Dietrich, our intrepid Woofstock photographer

2023 Arizona Water Camp

The annual Arizona Water Camp was held in May at Canyon Lake in Arizona, a gorgeous 900-acre scenic site with a wealth of recreational opportunities. The event was hosted by PWDCNC member and Arizona resident Lauren McDermott (of Amarinhar Portuguese Water Dogs). Days were filled with fun people, great dogs, and learning opportunities for every level. The weather was variable, with some heavy rain, but Water Campers were treated to a gorgeous double rainbow and numerous sightings of wildlife, as well as, of course, wildly excited dogs. Attendees from our Northern California club included Lauren and her dogs; Ann Gaskell with Teddy; Sherry Hanen with Gyro; Jimmy and Leslie Holt with Marcus; John and Laura Wilson with Tuli. Thanks to John Wilson for the spectacular photos.



John Wilson handling, Lauren McDermott rowing, Tuli flying



Leslie Holt and Marcus



Marcus relaxes while Leslie and Jimmy work



Teddy Gaskell wonders when the rain will stop



It stopped!



Teddy got out! ... with Ann Gaskell and Jimmy Holt

Arizona Water Camp



Water Camp host Lauren McDermott and two of her pups



Judy Weinstein and Reacher

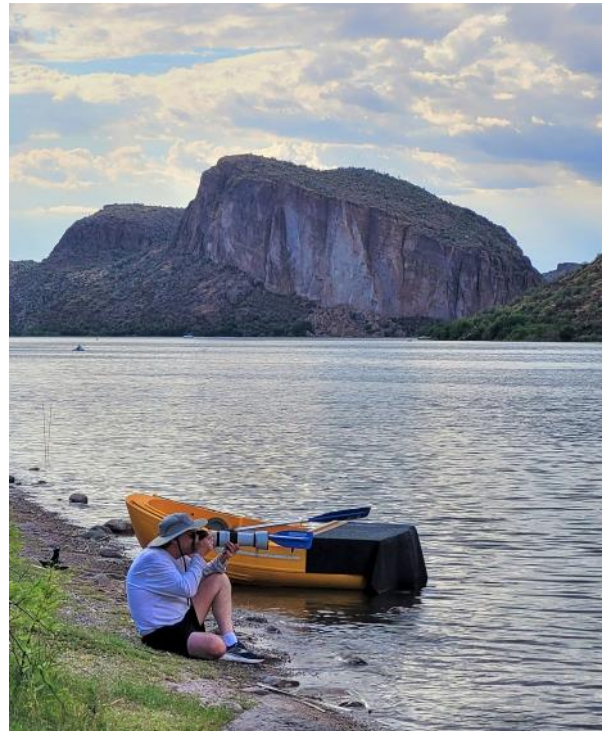


Frank Baucom and his dog aboard "Shiver Me Timbers"

Arizona Water Camp



Duelling cormorants at Canyon Lake



A rare image: the photographer captured in the wild

Water Camp photos courtesy of John Wilson

PWDCNC Renewed Annual Picnic

The last “annual” picnic was pre-COVID in 2019, so it was with great anticipation that the Club was finally able to get together once again and enjoy great weather, great friends and, of course, lots of PWDs!

Ann Gaskell and Janis Welsh chose the Lagoon Valley Park, just west of Vacaville, for the event. The weather cooperated beautifully, with very mild temperatures and a taste of the brisk Delta Breeze. The day began with the Club’s first Fit Dog walk, a 1-mile saunter enjoyed by several teams as they earned points toward a possible AKC Fit Dog Bronze title.

Back at the picnic area a brief general meeting was held followed by a delightful lunch. The Club provided hot dogs, hamburgers, and veggie burgers. Attendees provided a scrumptious array of side dishes and desserts.

After lunch members who had various levels of Scent Work experience were invited to try their hands (and noses) at the “200-Box Challenge.” Different types of containers were laid out within the search area, which was filled with PVC tubes, plastic buckets, small tool boxes, a camp stool, and lots of different shapes and sizes of cardboard boxes. Located within that array of containers were 10 that had q-tips with birch essential oil for the dogs to attempt to locate. With the Delta Breeze blowing, the event turned out to be considerably more challenging than originally planned—not only did the odor swirl around in the wind: so did the boxes! Some of the boxes had to be chased down and repositioned several times.

While those teams already trained to find Birch were tackling the challenge, those interested in seeing how to start their dogs searching spent time with Kathy Souza learning to search for hot dog slices in cardboard boxes. Sounds simple, right? Well, not all dogs are comfortable sticking their faces into boxes, so the teams learned how to encourage their dogs to become eager to look for “cookies” in those boxes.

All participants were presented with colorful goody bags containing poop bags with holder and toys. Thank you, Meg O’Hair, for donating those for our attendees!



Some of the 200 boxes in the 200-Box Challenge



Picnickers Chris Rasmussen, Meg O'Hair, Susan Craig, and grill-master Mark O'Hair



Janis Welsh and Jack model one of Meg O'Hair's goody bags



Kathy Souza and Greta, who wants more boxes

FCAT Weekend

By Janis Welsh

On July 8th and 9th the PWDCNC hosted our 3rd FCAT (Fast Coursing Ability Test) in Manzanita Park in Prunedale, CA. A perfect cool weekend yielded our highest turnout yet: over two days we had 329 runs generating \$2375.00 in income for our club. It is thanks to the volunteers who step up and take the time to work at these events that our club can provide programs and exceptional trophies at supported entry shows. It would be great to see some conformation club members come out and volunteer even if your dogs are not running. There's a lot of action and a lot of fun!

A special thank you to:

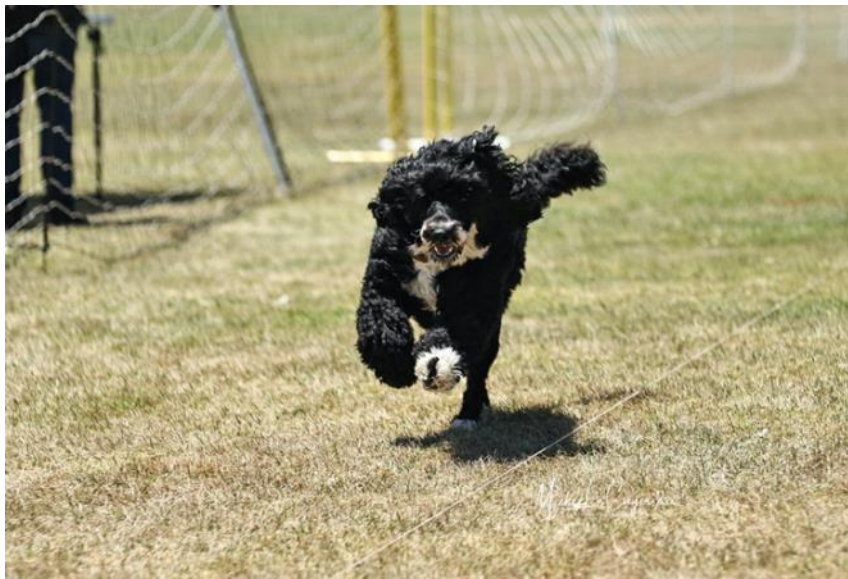
Jim and Leslie Holt, Susan and Carl Craig, Janis and Chris Welsh, Sherry Hanen, Ann Gaskell, Judy Knorr, Elaine Rasmussen and Vanessa MacDonald (a Doodle owner but still welcome!) who helped to make this event a success.

The event had regular runs for the experienced dogs and a learn-and-run for dogs new to the sport. Here are a few photos of the day and the happy flying PWD's.

In all we had eight PWD's who ran: Briza, Bella, and Michelle tried it for the first time. They quickly learned the game and were running like cheetahs in minutes. Teddy, Gyro, Soda, Violet and Jack added to their points toward FCAT titles.



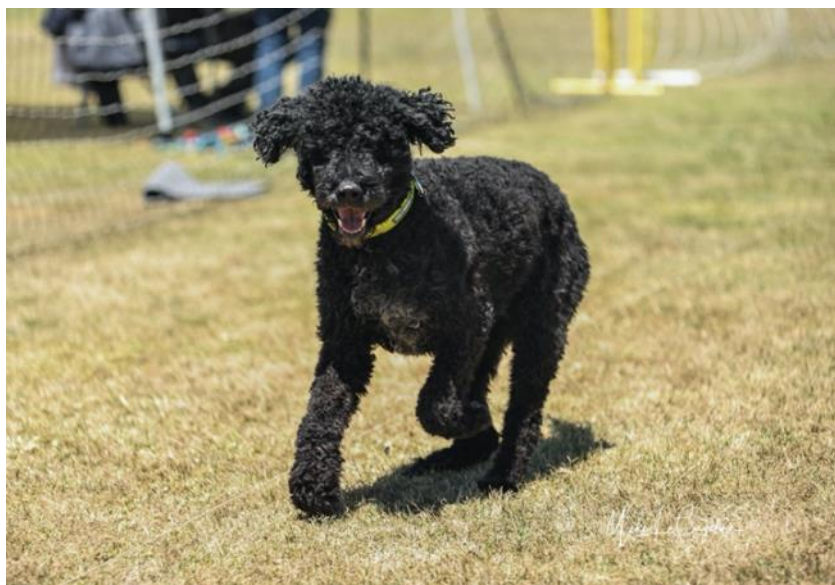
Jim Holt, dog releaser, and Carl Craig, starter flagger



For an exciting look at FCAT in action, check out <https://www.facebook.com/reel/306104355100019> at the PWDCNC Facebook page.

First timer Bella learns quickly

FCAT Weekend



Loping Jack smiles for the photographer



Victory!! Violet catches the Bag!

FCAT Weekend



Jim Holt holds and releases Gyro



Front row: Judy Knorr with Apollo and Michelle, Janis Welsh and Jack

Back row: Elaine Rasmussen hiding behind Briza, Linda Schmith with Bella, Ann Gaskell and Teddy



Susan Craig, flagger

FCAT photo credits: Janis Welsh and show photographer Mike Lecuyers

Summertime Scourge: Foxtails

by Cheri Ross



Come summer in Northern California, our dogs and their humans spend more time outside, enjoying the beautiful weather, walking in a golden landscape made lush by the rains of winter. One big problem: much of that golden landscape contains foxtails, those innocuous looking but dangerous grass-seed pods. This is also the time of year, says Cara Bradley, DVM, of West Davis Veterinary Center, that the daily appointment schedules of vet clinics are routinely hi-jacked by foxtail emergencies. What are these devilish little weeds, what problems can they cause, and how can we reduce the hazards of foxtails for our dogs?

What is a foxtail?

A foxtail is a type of seedhead found in several species of grasses. Foxtails resemble a fox's bushy tail, with layers of delicate spines projecting upward from a center point. In the winter and spring foxtails are green and soft; in summer they dry, harden, and fall apart into dozens of individual seeds, each tipped with a



Foxtails (photo by author)

miniature arrow and ending in long, stiff bristle-like awns. You'll find them growing and on the ground all over Northern California, primarily in open areas with tall grass such as hiking trails, parks, and open fields.

From a Darwinian perspective, foxtails are pretty marvelous. They have evolved to break off and hitch a ride on any passersby to help these grasses reproduce and spread. Each awn is covered with microscopic barbs that grow from the awn in a single direction, away from the seed tip. When these awns come into contact with *anything*, the barbs help propel the seed relentlessly forward. These structures help the seeds bury themselves in the ground, so that the plants reseed themselves for the next growing season. The barbs also bury themselves deep in hikers' socks and dogs' skin or fur if they come in contact with these surfaces. Trying to remove these little devils can result in the awn breaking off, so that the foxtail tip will keep on propelling the seed forward in the embedded surface. When the surface is your dog's ear, nose, or paw, that's where the trouble starts.

What problems can foxtails cause?

Foxtails go beyond being a simple surface irritant because they're tough seeds that don't break down.

If your dog walks through grass and gets a foxtail lodged between her toes, the seed will stay in the foot unless it's removed. With its barbed head, it will likely penetrate the skin. The



discomfort makes most dogs start to lick the place where the seed broke the skin – which pushes the seed further and further into the dog's flesh. The foxtail can thus travel into the dog's foot and even up into the leg.

This scenario sounds bad enough, but Dr. Bradley points out most foxtails that vets find in paws or legs can be removed even after they have been there a few days. The biggest risk of foxtails in paws is that they can lead to serious infection if left untreated, causing discharge, abscesses, swelling, pain, and even in rare cases death.

By contrast, Dr. Bradley warns that as far as foxtails go, anything from the neck up is a serious emergency, and you should seek veterinary help immediately. A foxtail inhaled through mouth or nose can lead not only to infection but can lodge in the lungs or burrow into other vital organs. A foxtail travelling into an ear canal can even migrate into the brain.

Some foxtail injuries are fairly obvious—you might be able to see a foxtail in your dog's eye or lodged in the gums –but oftentimes you'll have no idea that a foxtail is to blame for your pet's symptoms. If your dog has been exposed to foxtails and displays any of the following symptoms or behaviors, consult your vet right away:

Ears: A very common spot for foxtails! The usual symptoms include head shaking, a head tilt, or scratching of the ear. Some foxtails burrow deeply into the ear canal

so you may not be able to see them.

Nose: Frequent, intense sneezing can mean a foxtail is lodged in a nasal passage. Nasal discharge that may contain blood or pus can result. There might also be gagging, difficulty breathing, and bad breath.

Mouth: Excessive licking, drooling, gagging, swelling of the gums, and lack of appetite may be symptoms of a foxtail lodged in the mouth.

Eyes: Redness, watering, swelling, and rubbing at an eye can mean a foxtail is lodged under an eyelid.

Skin: Foxtails can cause swollen areas in or under the skin. They may drain pus or other fluids.

Genitals: Foxtails can even find their way to the genital area and can cause infections and abscesses. If you see your pet persistently licking at its genitals, foxtails could be the cause.

Internal organs: Once they've gained access to the body, foxtails can move almost anywhere including abdominal organs, the lungs, and the spinal cord. Symptoms will depend on where the foxtail is located and how much damage it has done.



How can we reduce the hazards of foxtails for our dogs?

According to Dr. Bradley, PWDs, like other breeds with webbed feet and thick hair, are particularly prone to foxtails or other foreign objects hiding themselves in their paws and other folds and orifices. She recommends examining your dog's eyes, nose, ears, paws, and under legs carefully every time you come in from a walk in a setting where your dog might encounter foxtails. When you brush your PWD, look closely for foxtails in the fur.

Avoid walks through overgrown, grassy areas. If you live in such landscapes, weed out the problem plants if possible. If you can't get rid of these pesky grasses out completely, consider mowing or sending out your goats (if you are lucky enough to have some) to take care of the problem proactively, before the grasses develop seed heads.

If you have a known problem child—a dog who loves to snuffle up anything in the landscape—or if you frequently hike in foxtail-rich landscapes, Dr. Bradley strongly suggests walking on a leash and outfitting your pup with a mesh hood (you can find these online by searching for “dog hoods” or “field guards”). Even if you use such a hood, remember to check all the other parts of the dog, since the hood will only protect from the neck up. Consider paw protection too, such as dog booties. Keep in mind that even if you use a hood and booties, you still need to check your dog carefully after walks.

For some of us with PWDs who compete in conformation, this next bit of advice will sound either like heresy or heaven: consider a haircut. Trim your dog's fur, especially on paws, so foxtails are easy to see, particularly if you've had foxtail issues in the past.

Keeping our pups safe from foxtails is a matter of being informed and being vigilant. Even the most careful PWD parent may have to deal occasionally with a foxtail emergency. In fact, as I was interviewing Dr. Bradley for this article during a regular visit with my pup, she found a foxtail in her paw! In this case it was a simple matter of removing the offending barb (and recovering from my embarrassment). May all your foxtail experiences be as harmless.

For further information, check out these resources consulted for this article:

Nancy Kerns, “The Worst Sound a Dog Owner Can Hear,” *Whole Dog Journal*: <https://www.whole-dog-journal.com/blog/the-worst-sound-a-dog-owner-can-hear/>

Colleen Williams with Jennifer Coates, DVM, “The Dangers of Foxtails,” *Healthy Paws Pet Insurance Foundation*, <https://blog.healthypawspetinsurance.com/the-dangers-of-foxtails>

Christy Corp-Minamiji, DVM, “Outfoxing the Foxtail,” *Vet Insight*: <https://www.vin.com/vetzinsight/default.aspx?pld=756&id=7422878>

Wavies & Curlies Transitions:

An Interview with Frank Dietrich and Cheri Ross

By Casey Ingram

Wavies & Curlies has long been a PWDCNC member benefit appreciated by all. No matter if you and your dog(s) actively compete in Conformation or Performance sports, or if you are a passionate breed fancier with the best companion dog ever, this publication has something for everyone. The quality and depth of issues can be directly attributed to the articles submitted by our talented members, and we are always grateful for your submissions. Equally important, is the time and attention donated by the dedicated editors who pull it all together to make each issue an informative, insightful, and fun read for all.

We have been extremely fortunate to have Frank and Margaret Dietrich at the helm of *Wavies & Curlies* for the past seven years. Under their leadership, our club newsletter has developed into an eagerly awaited “must read” publication. We owe Frank and Margaret a huge debt of gratitude. Volunteer work is a challenge. With their devotion to this newsletter, Frank and Margaret met that challenge and took it to a whole new level.

All good things come to an end, right? Or at least a slowdown. However, given the addition of a new puppy in the Dietrich household, “slowdown” may be a misnomer...at least on that front!



Frank and Rainha

That said, we are excited to announce that club member Cheri Ross has agreed to take over the editorial reins of *Wavies & Curlies*. Not only is Cheri a longtime PWD owner, she also brings professional background and experience uniquely suited to the role. Frank has graciously agreed to stay on as Editor Emeritus, so you will still see his contributions to the newsletter.

I’ve always thought that knowing where you have been often makes the new journey all the richer and more exciting. Having a sense of what lies ahead creates its own sense of anticipation as well. On that note, we presented Frank and Cheri with a few interview questions to better give you, our members, an idea of the past and future of *Wavies & Curlies*.

Thank you, Frank and Margaret, for all of your devoted efforts, and a warm welcome to Cheri as your new *Wavies & Curlies* editor!

Keep those articles and photos coming everyone. *Wavies & Curlies* marches on!



Cheri with Pepper and Ben

Wavies & Curlies: Frank, when did you first take over W&C and how many editions have you published?

Frank Dietrich: At the 2015 Dogtoberfest Mike Paterson and then-President Elaine Rasmussen asked me if I would consider editing the newsletter. During a long career as a scientist writing and publishing my own research papers, as well as editing those of others, I realized that my skills should be readily translatable to the needs of the newsletter. So I accepted, hoping I was right. With my co-Editor Margaret Dietrich, we published our first issue in March 2016. In all, we produced 15 issues, the last in April 2023.

WC: Tell us about your dogs (past and current) and your accomplishments with them. What are your goals for your current dogs, and what are you most excited about?

FD: We currently have two dogs. One of them, Toby, our first PWD, was bred by Julie Conger and Remy Smith-Lewis. He joined us in early 2012. We didn't know we needed a new major activity, but Toby convinced us otherwise by getting his Championship at 10 months. He went on to obtain a Bronze Grand Championship. He was an enthusiastic Rally performer, obtaining a Rally Excellent title. Our next dog, Rainha, from Donna Gottdenker's Claircreek Kennel, arrived in October 2014, and left us far too early this past January. She had a sweet temperament and excelled in Conformation (Silver Grand Championship) and Rally (Rally Championship, RACH). At our Club's specialties she won Winners Bitch (2015), Best Opposite (2016), and Rally HC/HTQ 3 times. Our second current dog, Marina, is an extraordinarily enthusiastic puppy sired by Toby with one of Donna Gottdenker's bitches. She has gotten 11-year-old Toby to share her passion for zoomies, mostly outside. It will be exciting to see what she's good at when she gets her feet on the ground.

WC: What has changed in the newsletter during your time as editor?

FD: In looking back over our first issue from 2016, I am surprised to find that the overall structure of

that newsletter looks very similar to the last one, so I think we got it about right at the beginning. The changes have largely been evolutionary. Some items have been dropped (e.g. the listing of new members) or added (e.g. the Antics, Adventures, and Awards section, which highlights things members and their dogs do that don't fit into the scheduled Club activities). Over the years we developed two very useful boards, the Editorial Board and the Advisory Board, which, roughly speaking, focus on the planning and reviewing of an issue, respectively. The members have a wide variety of talents and experience, and they play a key role in ensuring the quality of the newsletter.

WC: As newsletter editor for the Club, what observations have you made about the Club and how it's changed over the past five years?

FD: The Club appears to have a sound organizational structure and a dedicated group of people that make it work. At the same time, it seems easy for newer members who wish to contribute to the club to find positions for which they have the requisite skills. One change over the years is an increase in the number of activities the Club sponsors, such as FCAT and Scent Work, which increases the need for volunteers.

WC: What are the things you most look forward to each edition?

FD: Going to an event without a dog but with a camera. The newsletter doesn't have an official photographer (although John Wilson usually takes excellent photos at the events he attends). And learning something new! When I've been interested in a new dog sport or health condition, I've enjoying recruiting someone to write an article about it. And finally--pushing the button to send the final edit of the newsletter to Carol Irving and Sherry Hanen for the official release.

WC: If you had one wish for the W&C (and/or the Club), what would it be?

FD: Work harder to reach the invisible Club members. The newsletter seems to be the primary connection the Club makes to members who are rarely seen at events.

WC: *Any words of advice for your successor?*

FD: I think we have left you with a sound foundation from which to launch your adventure as Editor. We wish you every success, and we look forward to seeing how the newsletter develops.

WC: *Cheri, tell us about yourself. What is your background?*

Cheri Ross: I'm a native Californian—originally from LA, but I have now spent more of my life in Northern California. An academic, I received my PhD from Stanford and, after stints at Stanford and Duke, I now teach Comparative Literature at UC Davis.

WC: *How did you first get into Water Dogs?*

CR: In 1986 I got Brio, my first PWD (shared with my then husband), from Judy Siebert, who had just started her Piedelai kennel in Montana. Divorce ensued and Brio went with the ex. When I remarried, my husband Tim, allergic to just about everything except PWDs, and I traveled to the Specialty in San Rafael, where we met Linda Fowler of Nautique Kennels. Dante, our first PWD together, came to us shortly after. After life with Dante we couldn't imagine ever not having a PWD—or two! We are now on our sixth and seventh water dogs, Pepper and Benjamin.

WC: *Tell us about your dogs and what activities you enjoy with them. What accomplishments are you especially proud of?*

CR: We have always enjoyed our (reasonably) well-behaved dogs, and they go with us everywhere. Dante was a fixture at my Stanford office. Behind a baby gate at my door, he greeted, comforted, and entertained countless students (and some faculty needing a doggy fix). With dogs who go everywhere, obedience training is a must, and I spend time at it. Some of our past dogs have achieved conformation titles, but Pepper and Ben are the stand-outs in that arena: Pepper is GCHB Seaisle Doctor Who Dat Pepper (Pirate x Rivah), and she will be featured in the Top Twenty at the National Specialty this August. Benjamin is CH Pirate's Cove I Look Real Good Today (Hank x Cythera), and, though still a young pup, he is

working on the final points of his Grand Championship. And he'll be at the Specialty too.

WC: *What are your goals/activities with them that you are particularly excited about?*

CR: With our conformation goals nearly reached (for a while, at least), we are looking forward to more obedience, scentwork and, in Pepper's case, motherhood, perhaps in the coming year.

WC: *What do you think will be the most helpful to you as new editor?*

CR: Members who want to contribute to the newsletter by sharing reports about activities, anecdotes about their dogs' antics, awards, and achievements, and great photos!

WC: *What do you see as strengths in the PWDCNC?*

CR: The PWDCNC is exceptionally active in a number of areas. For instance, we are the only PWD club nationally that holds regular weekly waterwork practice during the season. The members who are engaged in activities such as waterwork, scentwork, FCAT, rally, agility, and conformation are passionate and eager to welcome new folks to the various groups and help them get started in these fun activities. I feel very lucky to be part of such an energetic PWD group!

WC: *What do you see as opportunities for W&C?*

CR: I would love to see the newsletter reach out to the widest audience possible in the club: not only owners of dogs who achieve titles in front and after their names, but also folks who enjoy their PWDs primarily as pets and family members. Club members: this is your newsletter, so please let me know what you want to read about. Stay tuned as we experiment with some new approaches. And watch for calls to contribute content to the newsletter!

Got an idea, request, or feedback for the Editor?
Please send to wceditor@pwdcnc.org.

2023 Officers and Board of Directors

March 1, 2023 — February 29, 2024

PRESIDENT: Rebecca Morin

VICE PRESIDENT: Ann Gaskell

TREASURER: Janis Welsh

RECORDING SECRETARY: Casey Ingram

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY: Lisa MacKenzie

DIRECTORS:

Kathy Souza, Dominick Amadeo,
Gail Browne-McDonald, Susan Craig,
Bill Waters (Immediate Past President)

Club Committee Chairs

BREEDER REFERRAL: Linda Kelly

COMMUNICATIONS: Ann Gaskell (*coordinating*)

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Elaine Rasmussen,
Sue Nelson, Lisa MacKenzie

WATER EQUIPMENT MANAGER: Carl Craig

HEALTH AND EDUCATION: *Co-Chairs:*
Rebecca Morin, Margaret Dietrich

TREASURE CHEST (PWDCNC Store): open

HISTORIAN: open

JUNIOR SHOWMANSHIP: Ally Lantis

MEMBERSHIP: Deborah Price

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES: Carole Corbett

PROGRAMS: Ann Gaskell

REGIONAL CLUB CONTACT: Don Niemann

REGIONAL SPECIALTY: Rebecca Morin, Ann Gaskell

RESCUE AND RELOCATION: Julie Conger

WEBSITE COORDINATOR: Sherry Hanen

Activity/Performance Chairs

AGILITY: Rebecca Morin and
Ann Gaskell, *Co-Chairs*

CONFORMATION: Becky Morin

OBEDIENCE & RALLY: Ann Gaskell
Co-Chair: Anne Paterson

SCENT WORK: Kathy Souza

WATER WORK: Kathy Souza

Wavies & Curlies

EDITORIAL BOARD: Casey Ingram, Rebecca Morin,
Frank Dietrich (Editor emeritus), Cheri Ross (Editor)

ADVISORY BOARD: Elinor Cullen,
Ann Gaskell, Sherry Hanen, Paula Li,
Elaine Rasmussen, Kathy Souza

*We would appreciate your comments and
suggestions. Please email us at*
wceditor@pawdnc.org.

*To reach any of the Club personnel, consult the
PWDCNC Membership Directory, now available to
members on the website, or send email to any board
member for forwarding.*

*For further information about the Club's activities,
check out our website at <https://pawdnc.org>.*

